



Lexington-Fayette Urban County Government  
OFFICE OF THE MAYOR

Linda Gorton  
Mayor

July 7, 2020

The Honorable Judge Michael E. Wiles  
U.S. Bankruptcy Court, Southern District of New York  
One Bowling Green  
New York, New York 10004-1408

Dear Judge Wiles,

I am the Mayor of Lexington, KY, home to a McClatchy newspaper, The Lexington Herald-Leader. As you consider the competing bids for ownership of the McClatchy papers, I urge you to consider what's best for our community.

This is my second year as Mayor of Lexington, but I also served this City for 16 years on our Urban-Council, including four years as Vice Mayor. Since 1999, I've had a ringside seat to the forces that have led to Lexington's growth and development. The Herald-Leader is one of those forces. It has been vitally important to our progress.

We are a mid-sized, progressive City with a population of 325,000. Unlike major media markets, we do not have a large press corps. The Herald-Leader provides the news people in Lexington require if they are going to be involved, effective citizens.

Yes, the newspaper holds our feet to the fire through investigative stories and in-depth coverage. While it's not always comfortable, it's always important to challenge the decisions cities make, and to deeply examine the actions of government.

Like newspapers everywhere, The Herald-Leader has gone through significant budget cuts that have been harmful to its ability to do its job. Even so, it continues to demonstrate its importance to our community, most recently with its coverage of racial unrest in our town and of the COVID-19 pandemic.

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We want our newspaper to emerge from this bankruptcy with owners who are willing to invest in our community, and provide us with journalism at its best. That is the tradition of our Pulitzer Prize winning newspaper.

The Herald-Leader has roots that date back to 1870. Through the years, it has joined in the celebration of our triumphs, and helped us mourn our tragedies. It has motivated us, challenged us, criticized us, and encouraged us.

I'm sure you are aware that you have important decisions to make. I urge you to consider the communities these newspapers call home. We're depending on you.

Sincerely,

*Linda Gorton*  
Linda Gorton  
Mayor